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multitude of his interests. From early manhood he was a strong advocate of the diffusion of knowledge, and his last efforts were devoted to this lifelong purpose. The following is an extract from his will:

"Pursuant to an intention fixed in early manhood on learning that a certain State provided by law that medical graduates should have had dissecting-room experience, and yet made so little provision for the requisite subjects; and conformably with the shocking economic waste represented by the cities of the dead in the long-settled portions of the country; and in accordance with my custom of devoting my efforts and myself to the public good, I give and bequeath my body for purposes of dissection to any medical college selected by my executor."

F. W. H.

ROBERT FLETCHER

DR ROBERT FLETCHER, one of the founders of the Anthropological Society of Washington in February, 1879, died at Washington, November 8, 1912.

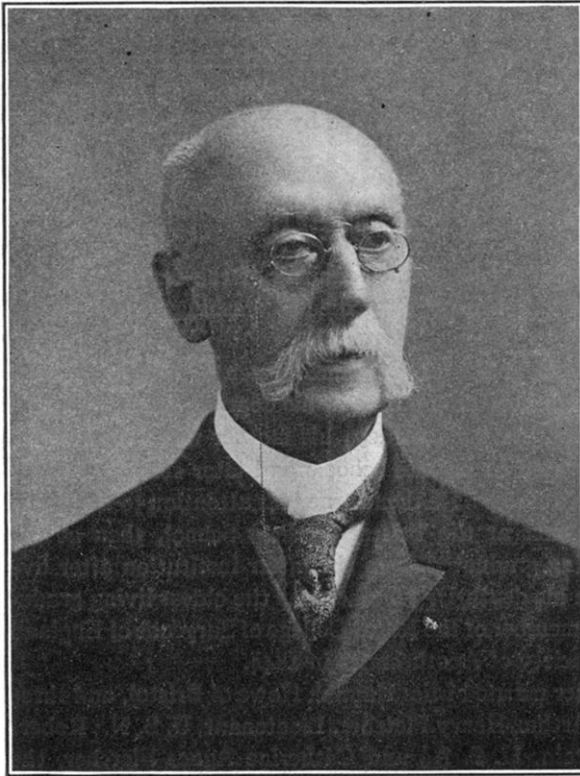
Dr Fletcher was born in Bristol, England, March 6, 1823, and therefore was in his ninetieth year at the time of his death. His father, also named Robert Fletcher, was an attorney; his mother was Esther Wall. Dr Fletcher was educated at private schools and later studied law for two years in his father's office. He then turned his attention to medicine, pursuing his studies first at the Bristol Medical School, then at the London Hospital, being graduated from the latter institution after five years' study. Before his death Dr Fletcher was the oldest living graduate. He was made a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and of the London Society of Apothecaries in 1844.

In 1843 Dr Fletcher married Miss Hannah Howe of Bristol, and three children were born: Arthur Henry Fletcher, Lieutenant, U. S. N.; Robert Howe Fletcher, Captain, U. S. A., and Catherine Agnes Fletcher, the wife of general Leon A. Matile, U. S. A. Dr Fletcher's wife died at Washington, January 20, 1889.

Dr Fletcher came to the United States and settled at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1847, where he practised his profession. At the outbreak of the Civil War he entered the service of the United States and spent two years in active duty in the field as Surgeon of the First Ohio Volunteers. He was then commissioned as Surgeon, U. S. Volunteers, and given charge of military hospital No. 7, at Nashville, Tennessee. Later he was appointed Medical Purveyor. At the close of the war he was

breveted Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel for faithful and meritorious service.

In 1871 Dr Fletcher entered the office of the Provost-Marshall-General of the Army in Washington, and, in association with Dr J. H. Baxter, of the Army, and others, prepared the two volumes, published in 1875, entitled *Statistics, Medical and Anthropological, of the Provost-Marshall-*



DR ROBERT FLETCHER

General's Bureau, Derived from Records of the Examination for Military Service in the Armies of the United States during the late War of the Rebellion of over a Million Recruits, Drafted Men, Substitutes and Enlisted Men.

Dr Fletcher wrote especially the portion bearing the title "An Outline of the History of Anthropometry, or the Attempts to Ascertain the Proportions of the Human Body" (pp. lxii-lxxxviii), including a bibliography which could have been

compiled at that time only by great labor combined with good judgment and an extended knowledge of ancient and modern languages. This monumental work aggregates 1,450 pages.

In 1876 Dr Fletcher was appointed an Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A., and was associated with Dr John S. Billings, of the Army, who was in charge of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office. He now became engaged in the preparation of the great *Index Catalogue* of the

Library, which has appeared in yearly volumes beginning in 1880 and has entered a second series, with a total of thirty-three volumes. This work is another monument to Dr Fletcher's industry, knowledge, and good judgment. In addition, a monthly *Index Medicus* was commenced in 1879, with Dr Fletcher as associate editor. After twenty years the publication was discontinued, but it was resumed in 1903 and has continued to the present time, with Dr Fletcher as editor-in-chief until 1912.

The study of law pursued by Dr Fletcher making the subject of medical jurisprudence especially attractive to him, he lectured thereon at the medical department of Columbian (now George Washington) University from 1884 to 1888, and at Johns Hopkins Medical School from 1897 to 1903.

Dr Fletcher was a member of a number of societies, including the following: Anthropological Society of Washington (of which he was President for several terms), American Folk-lore Society, American Academy of Political and Social Science, American Statistical Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science (a fellow), American Medical Association, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia, Medical Society of the District of Columbia (honorary), Philosophical Society of Washington (sometime President), Washington Academy of Sciences, Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Société d'Hygiène of Paris. In 1910 Dr Fletcher received a gold medal from the Royal College of Surgeons, a distinction that had been accorded to physicians only eleven times in ninety years. On him was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1884 by Columbian University, and only a few days prior to his death he received the degree of M.D. from the Bristol Medical College, in which he first attended medical lectures. A life-size portrait of Dr Fletcher graces the Library of the Surgeon General's Office in the Army Medical Museum building at Washington.

Dr Fletcher was rather tall and slender; in manner always extremely dignified, and ever courteous and helpful. His store of knowledge of medicine and of the collateral sciences and their bibliography was always at the service of those in quest.

The more important writings of Dr Fletcher, in addition to those above mentioned, are as follows:

- Prehistoric Trephining and Cranial Amulets. 1882.
- Paul Broca and the French School of Anthropology. 1882.
- Human Proportion in Art and Anthropometry. 1883.
- Tattooing among Civilized Peoples. 1883.

- Myths of the Robin Redbreast in Earlier English Poetry. 1898.
The Vigor and Expressiveness of Older English. 1890.
The New School of Criminal Anthropology. 1891.
The Poet, Is he Born, not Made? 1893.
Anatomy and Art. 1895.
Brief Memoir of Colonel Garrick Mallery, U.S.A. 1895.
Medical Lore in the Older English Dramatists and Poets, (Exclusive of Shakspeare). 1895.
The Witches' Pharmacopœia. 1896.
Scopelism. 1897. (Said to be the first paper on this subject in English.)
A Tragedy of the Great Plague at Milan in 1630. 1898.
On Some Diseases bearing the Names of Saints. 1912.
Columns of Infamy. (In the present issue of the *American Anthropologist*.)

D. S. LAMB

ANDREW LANG

IN the death of Mr Lang anthropology has lost one of its most picturesque and persevering students. The light touch, the quaint humor, the literary tone, the flashes of an intelligence better remembered for its keenness and quick perception than for its depth and breadth, are inseparably bound up with Mr Lang's reputation in scientific circles. He would prefer this guise to that of erudite research, so his whole literary personality would seem to declare,—and to this ideal he was consistent. Such were, in the main, the characteristics of his articles in *Man* and in *Folk Lore*, his contributions to *Anthropology and the Classics*, to *Anthropological Essays dedicated to E. B. Tylor*, and in such of his books as *Magic and Religion*, *Myth, Magic and Religion*, *The Making of Religion*, and *The Secret of the Totem*. He had announced, prior to his death, that we might expect other volumes from his pen. They will probably be forthcoming in posthumous editions.

Mr Lang's argumentation, too frequently evasive and half-serious, was now and then incisive and illuminating. The theory that totems were the result of the restriction of a given group to one particular kind of food was effectively answered by the retort that "man cannot live by witchetty-grubs alone." But Mr Lang's greatest service to anthropology has been by way of enlisting others in its service through the enticing chapters of his earlier works. Many have been turned by his writings to the great field of opportunity and have contributed, each in his way, some bit of knowledge or guidance to the study of man.

Mr Lang was more than an ethnologist, more than a writer and researcher in mythology, religion, magic, and various forms of social